Decline in the production of sugarcane

1069. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the production of sugarcane during 1992-93;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target set for sugarcane production during the year 1993-94; and

(d) the estimated achievement so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for decline in sugarcane production in the country from 253.99 million tonnes in 1991-92 to 230.83 million tonnes in 1992-93 is attributed to reduction in area under sugarcane due to adverse weather conditions prevailing at sowing time in the major producing States; inability of sugar mills to accept cane from farmers due to very high production of cane in the previous year, i.e. 1991-92 etc.

(c) The target of sugarcane production for 1993-94 is set at 250.00 million tonnes.

(d) According to the present assessment, the sugarcane production for the country as a whole is anticipated at about 231.00 million tonnes during 1993-94.

Per capita availability of foodgrains

1070. SHRI MENTARY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether any study has been made recently to assess the pec capita availability of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that unrestricted exports will further reduce the per capita availability of foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to rectify the imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The per capita availability of foodgrains has been provisionally estimated at 465.6 grams per day for 1993.

(d) and (e) Exports are normally limited to exportable surpluses in the case of various foodgrains. Only Basmati rice, superior varieties of Non-Basmati Rice and supecior variety of Wheat, namely; Durum Wheat have been permitted for export. This ensures that availability of items of mass consumption is not affected adversely. Similarly, export of coarse grains viz., Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Barley and Ragi is limited to a small quantity of 50,000 MTs with the intention that dry-land farmers are benefitted. This quantity is also exportable surplus. Hybrid Jowar has also been allowed to be exported by Government of Maharashtca to the extent of 3.55 lakh MTs which is also an exportable surplus.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Andhra Pradesh

1071. DR. YELAMANCHILLI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University has submitted a proposal to locate Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district in the State;

(b) if so, at what stage of consideration it is; and

(c) how old it is and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Vice-Chancellor of A.P.A.U. has requested the Council for establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in nine districts of the State.

(b) The ICAR had already sanctioned a Krishi Vigyan Kendra each in all the

nine distcicts except Nellore district. The A.P.A.U. has been requested to submit the proposal for Nellore district.

(c) The communication for establishing Krishi Vigyan Kendras in nine districts was received from the Vice-Chancellor, A.P.A.U- in August, 1993. As soon as the detailed proposal for Nellore district is received from the Agricultural University, it will be examined in the Council.

Oil Palm cultivation in coastal Andhra Pradesh

1072. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coastal Andhra Pradesh is suitable for oil palm cultivation; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken to exploit the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee appointed by Government of India has identified about 4 lakh ha. as suitable for Oil Palm cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. Most of the areas identified for Oil Palm cultivation in the State are in the coastal Districts.

(b) An Oil Palm Demonstration Project of 1,000 ha. in 3 districts of East Godavari, West Godavadi and Krishna were introduced by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to demonstrate the feasibility of Oil Palm cultivation under irrigated condition in the identified areas of the State. On the basis of the experience gained under the DBT Project, it has been proposed to bring about 50,000 ha. under Oil Palm cultivation in Andhra Pradesh during Eighth Plan (1992—97). A number of Oil Palm Development Schemes have been introduced in the State to initiate advance action for the promotion of Oil Palm cultivation during Eighth Plan which includes establishment of Oil Palm seed garden, nurseries, I tonne FFB/hour processing unit, etc. Subsidies are being extended to the farmers towards the cost of the oil Palm planting material and cultivation cost during the gestation period.

Implementation of I.C.A.R Schemes in Anndhra Pradesh Agriculture University

1073. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any schemes of I.C.A.R. under implementation in Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, what is the amount sanctioned; to each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of ICAR Plan and ad-hoc research schemes alongwith the amount sanctioned for each of them is enclosed as statement.